

Application No.: 10/720,168
Response Under 37 C.F.R. §1.111 dated July 27, 2004
Response to the Office Action dated April 27, 2004

REMARKS

Reconsideration of this application, as presently amended, is respectfully requested. Claims 5-8 are pending in this application, new claim 8 having been added by the present Amendment. Claims 5 - 7 stand rejected.

Rejections Under 35 U.S.C. §102

Claims 5 - 7 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. §102(b) as being anticipated by **Sommer** (U.S. patent No. 3,696,898). For the reasons set forth in detail below, this rejection, to the extent it is considered to apply to the amended claims, is respectfully traversed.

Sommer is directed to a clutch brake unit where an input from an input shaft 44 is controlled for speed-down to an output shaft 58 by an on/off of a brake. In contrast, the present invention relates to a changeover method for changing over speed changeable clutches, wherein a speed of an output shaft is increased or reduced by meshing a carrier of a composite planetary gear device with a casing using a clutch, and a direct coupling between an input shaft and an output shaft is performed by meshing the carrier with the input shaft or the output shaft using a clutch.

More specifically, according to **Sommer**, a clutch friction disc 126 and a brake friction disc 128 are disposed on an enlarged diameter section 110 of the output shaft 58 (see column 3, line 57 to column 4, line 43). The output shaft 58 is *rotatably* supported by bearings. Unlike **Sommer**, in accordance with the invention presently recited in claim 5, a direct coupling clutch and a speed-up

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or speed-down clutch are disposed on a movable element that is movable along an axial direction of the input shaft or the output shaft.

Moreover, it is respectfully submitted that the screw 194 does not correspond to the claimed movable element, as suggested by the Office Action. More specifically, the screws 194 of Sommer mesh clutch friction discs 136, 130 and brake friction discs 128, 134. In contrast, the claimed movable element is movable along an axial direction of an input shaft or an output shaft and is meshed with a carrier of a composite planetary gear device in such a manner as not to rotate relative to said carrier and is provided concentrically with the input shaft or the output shaft of a power transmission path of a speed-changeable clutch with the composite planetary gear device. Thus, the movable element, direct coupling clutch and speed-up or speed-down clutch of the present invention are different from the screw 194 and clutch friction discs and brake friction discs of Sommer.

In view of the above amendments and remarks, it is respectfully submitted that Sommer does not disclose or suggest the presently claimed invention. Reconsideration and withdrawal of the rejection of claims 5-7 under §102 are respectfully requested.

New Claim

New claim 3 has been added by the present Amendment. New claim 8 patentably distinguishes over the cited prior art for reasons similar to those set forth above with respect to claim 5.

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CONCLUSION

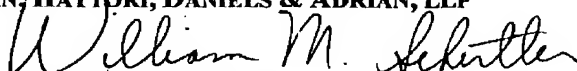
For the reasons set forth in detail above, it is respectfully submitted that all pending claims distinguish over the prior art and are in condition for allowance. An indication of allowability of all pending claims is respectfully requested.

If the Examiner believes that there are further issues to be resolved in this application, the Examiner is invited to contact the undersigned attorney at the telephone number listed below to arrange for an interview to expedite and complete prosecution of this case.

In the event that any fees are due in connection with the filing of this paper, please charge any fees to Deposit Account No. 50-2866.

Respectfully submitted,

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